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NCLC denounces Jones as agent

By Gene Van Troyer

Portland spokesmen for the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) denounced Imam Baraka (LeRoi Jones) as "an agent of the CIA" Sept 28 in a forum held on the PSU campus.

The NCLC allegations were loudly challenged by a group of black students attending the forum.

NCLC representatives Nick Braune and Greg Shultz said Friday that the CIA has embarked on a strategy of dividing poor blacks, whites and chicanos into separate camps, so that they might "be set at each others' throats" at some future date.

Braune and Shultz claimed that the US counterintelligence organization's domestic activities in this realm were part of a CIA-big business conspiracy to create future "slave-laborers from the working class," using existing welfare programs in Newark, New Jersey as a "pilot ground to test the feasibility of such a program.

A pamphlet titled "Pappa Doc Baraka: Fascism in Newark," published by the NCLC, named the Prudential Insurance Company as one of those businesses.

After Jones "was busted for possession of fire arms," a result of his activities during the July, 1967 riot in Newark, Jones went to work for Prudential as a local insurance representative. Jones currently heads several welfare programs in Newark's black wards and, Shultz said, was working closely with CIA operatives and Prudential Insurance, "which owns 60 percent of Newark."

Shultz and Braune contended NCLC organizers in Newark were being "harassed and beaten by Baraka goons," persons, they claimed, who later proved in past incidents to be advisors and friends to Jones, or were part of a vast army built by Baraka through the various welfare programs he is in charge of.

"Baraka is a hustler," Braune

said, "and people in this situation kind of want that."

The NCLC allegations were denounced by black students in the audience. Greg Benton, president of PSU's Black Student Union, told Shultz and Braune that they charged Jones with damaging activities, yet offered no concrete evidence to back their charges up.

Benton questioned the motives behind the NCLC charges against Jones/Baraka. Braune replied that persons connected with "The Baraka organization were disrupting our organizing efforts there (in Newark)."

A white man in the audience told Braune and Shultz that "for all we know, your organization might be the CIA front. Where do you get your funds from?"

Braune said the NCLC was not a front organization for the CIA, and that the NCLC got its funds from members of the organization, in addition to "occasional support from unions on the East Coast," where NCLC activities are more intense.

"Sure, there was tension in the room," Braune said after the forum. "But no one was really defending Baraka."

Shultz, Greg

BRAUNE, Nick

*National Caucus
of Labor Committees*